

What You Can Do To Keep Your Drinking Water Safe

Be Aware of Your Water Source and Supplier

- Where does your water come from?
- Who is your water supplier?
- Has your water been tested recently?
- Is it tested regularly?
- How is it treated and protected from contamination?
- Have water shortages occurred in your community?

Conserve Water In the Home/On the Farm

- Improve water use and management practice
- Repair leaking faucets and toilets
- Understand crop needs for water and irrigate appropriately
- Water your lawn wisely

Wisely Use and Dispose of Household, Lawn, and Garden Chemicals

- Follow all directions carefully
- How much is needed? Use only what you need
- Sponsor or participate in pesticide collection/disposal activities

Minimize the Production of Waste Materials

- Compost vegetable wastes
- Recycle newspaper, aluminum cans, glass containers
- Don't buy more of anything than you can use

- Recycle used motor oil
- Think of the impact of what you do on water quality

Learn the Facts About Your Water

- Don't believe everything you hear or read in advertisements—get the facts
- Review results of drinking water tests in your community
- Attend public meetings
- Follow the news about drinking water matters, such as the development of new standards
- Learn about potential contamination sources of groundwater and surface water

Get Involved in Your Community

- Urge your water supplier and state and local regulatory and health officials to insure that your water supply complies with all standards
- Support efforts to educate the public and elected officials about the need to protect and improve the quality of drinking water
- Express willingness to pay higher water rates, if necessary, to finance improvements in water quality
- Support efforts to protect water supplies



Working Together To Keep Your Drinking Water Safe

Public and Private Water Utilities

- control location of wells and intake pipes that draw water into drinking water systems
- sample and test water and maintain test records
- treat water to meet standards for public health and safety
- protect watershed or wellhead areas
- inform and involve public about future plans and needs
- notify public if any problems arise

State and Local Pollution Control Agencies

- protect surface water
- protect groundwater from contamination
- monitor groundwater and detect contaminants

State Drinking Water Programs

- establish state drinking water standards (at least as strict as national standards)
- train staff of local water systems
- inspect water systems and maintain records
- take enforcement actions against water systems in violation of law

State Groundwater Protection Programs

- develop comprehensive groundwater protection strategies
- develop programs and recommend laws to control contaminating sources and activities
- conduct statewide inventory and monitoring of groundwater

EPA Drinking Water Program

- assume responsibility for enforcement when necessary
- establish drinking water standards
- establish monitoring and reporting requirements
- provide funds and technical assistance to the states
- set rules for underground injection wells
- conduct research and training activities
- inform the public about new drinking water regulations

EPA Groundwater Protection Program

- coordinate EPA groundwater protection strategy within various affected EPA programs, focusing programs' attention on groundwater concerns
- assist states in developing comprehensive programs
- administer wellhead protection and sole-source aquifer protection programs

Other Federal Agencies

- work together with EPA and state agencies on drinking water programs and groundwater protection programs

Public Utility Commissions

- regulate the financing of investor-owned water systems and the rates their consumers pay for water



National
Drinking Water Week
Drinking Water: On Tap for the Future